

House Bill 431

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39th, Ashe of the 56th, Sims of the 151st, Floyd of the 99th,
Everson of the 106th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide for mandatory kindergarten for all
3 children prior to entering into first grade; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
4 laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
8 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-151, relating to general and career
9 education programs, by revising paragraph (1) of subsection (b) as follows:

10 "(1)(A) All local school systems shall offer a full-day kindergarten program. For
11 purposes of this subsection, the term 'full-day basis' means a student is provided
12 classroom instruction for a minimum of four and one-half hours daily for a 180 day
13 school year.

14 (B) It is the policy of this state that all children shall be required to attend kindergarten
15 for one school year before enrolling in first grade and that the purposes of the
16 kindergarten program shall be to provide all children with an equal opportunity to
17 become prepared for a successful first grade experience and to acquire the foundation
18 for academic progress throughout the students' educational careers. To be eligible for
19 enrollment in a state supported kindergarten program, a child must attain the age of five
20 by September 1, except as otherwise provided by subsection (b) of Code Section
21 20-2-150;"

22 **SECTION 2.**

23 Said chapter is further amended in Code Section 20-2-690.1, relating to mandatory education
24 for children, by revising subsection (a) as follows:

1 “(a) Mandatory attendance in a public school, private school, or home school program shall
2 be required for children between their fifth ~~sixth~~ and sixteenth birthdays. Such mandatory
3 attendance shall not be required where the child has successfully completed all
4 requirements for a high school diploma.”

5 SECTION 3.

6 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.